

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
U.S. House of Representatives
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
U.S. House of Representatives
H-405 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
U.S. House of Representatives
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
U.S. House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Calvert, Ranking Member McCollum, and Chairman Aderholt:

We thank you for your inclusion of funding related to lupus research in Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations legislation. In support of the Congressional Lupus Caucus and on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Americans living with lupus, we are writing to express our support for critically important lupus programs in the Fiscal Year 2026 Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bills.

We respectfully request the following in the Department of Defense appropriations bill:

\$15 million for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program's (CDMRP) Lupus Research Program. Research has found that those who serve in the military may be at greater risk of developing lupus. Post-traumatic stress disorder, which is experienced by 20 to 30 percent of service members, has been associated with a twofold increase in risk for autoimmune diseases like lupus, and there are likely other risk factors associated with military service. Additionally, it is imperative to advance understanding of biological factors of lupus, which will improve treatment and potentially cut medical costs of patients in the military. Over a 10-year period, nearly 68,000 lupus service members and beneficiaries were seen for lupus. Robust funding for the LRP will support the development of innovative, high-impact research to advance understanding of lupus and improve outcomes for our active-duty service members, veterans, their families, and other Americans with lupus.

We respectfully request the following in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill:

\$20 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Chronic Prevention and Health Promotion, National Lupus Patient Registry. Since 2003, Congress has provided funding for the National Lupus Registry Program, and the program has made important strides in lupus research and education. For

example, the program funded research to help determine incidence and prevalence of the disease in the United States, including how the disease impacts different populations across the country, and identified risk factors to developing the disease and those that contribute to worse health outcomes.

The program has also developed tools and resources and launched initiatives to help improve care for people with lupus. For example, funding provided by Congress through the Registry led to the development of the first and only online self-management program and efforts to reduce the time it takes to diagnose lupus, which can be as long as six years. This program has played a critical role in improving the health of Americans living with lupus and empowering people with the tools they need to live with lupus and manage their own care.

\$3 million for the Office of the HHS Secretary, Office of Minority Health (OMH), National Lupus Training, outreach and Clinical Trial Program. Funding provided by Congress has enabled the lupus community to identify barriers to participation in clinical trials, a significant problem in ensuring the safety and efficacy of treatments for diseases like lupus that are more prevalent in women and in women of color. The program also has implemented action plans to increase participation in lupus clinical trials and currently is supporting multiple projects throughout the country that are actively working to ensure that trials are representative of the actual patient population, which can enable trials to more accurately assess the efficacy and safety of new treatments in everyone living with lupus, improving health outcomes and quality of life. Moreover, representative trials can ensure that medications are appropriately prescribed and covered by insurance and available to the patients who need them, reducing unnecessary medical expenses and saving lives.

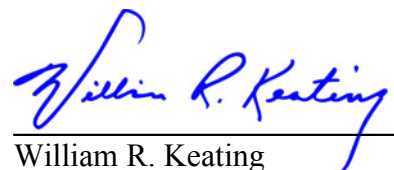
Funding in FY2026 is needed to continue these programs and support our constituents whose lives have been impacted by lupus.

Thank you for your support of these initiatives.

Sincerely,



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



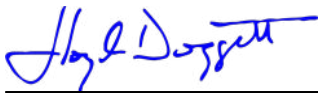
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



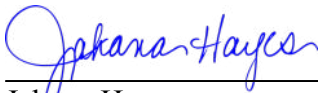
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



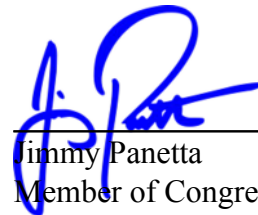
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



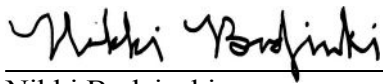
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



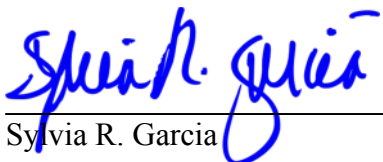
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



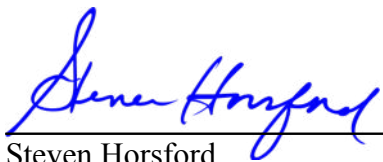
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



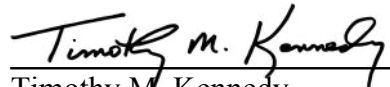
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



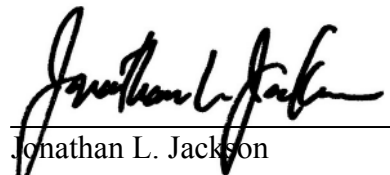
Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



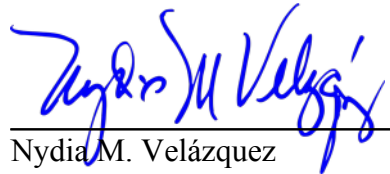
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



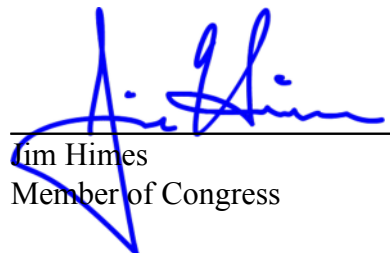
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



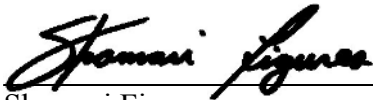
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



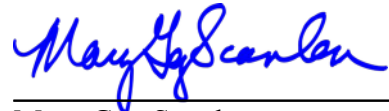
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



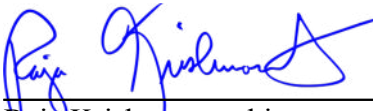
Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



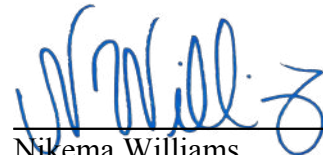
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



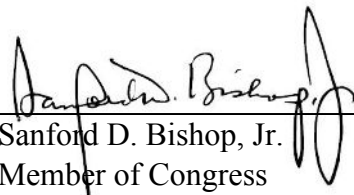
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



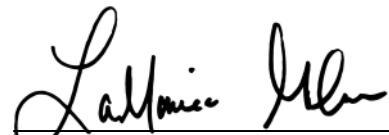
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



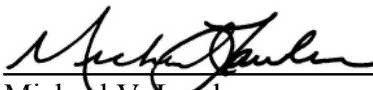
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



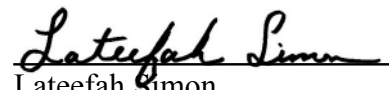
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



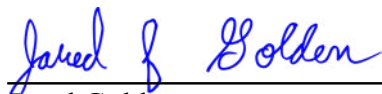
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



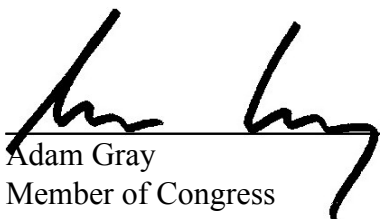
Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



Adam Gray
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Schrier", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress